Message Text

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TOSEC 379

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)
SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

- 1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT LESLIE GELB BYLINER, PAGE 6, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, NYTIMES HEADLINED "CONGRESS CONFIRMS ISRAELI AID REQUEST; CUTS ARE EXPECTED."
- 2. A KEY UNIT OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ISSUED A REPORT TODAY DISCLOSING OFFICIALLY THAT ISRAEL HAD ASKED FOR \$1.8 BILLION IN NEW ARMS AID AND INDICATING THAT CONGRESS WAS DISPOSED TO CUT THAT REQUEST.
- 3. THERE WERE PUBLISHED REPORTS IN JANUARY THAT ISRAEL HAD MADE SUCH A REQUEST. THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAS SO FAR ASKED CONGRESS FOR ONLY \$300 MILLION OF THE \$1.8 BILLION AND IS KNOWN TO BE AWAITING THE CONCLUSION OF THE CURRENT ROUND OF MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE ASKING FOR MORE.
- 4. THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE UNCLASSIFIED

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EAST OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE STATED THAT THE

UNITED STATES SHOULD KEEP ISRAEL STRONG, BUT THAT NEW ISRAELI MILITARY AID REQUESTS WOULD BE ,SCRUTINIZED CAREFULLY" AND JUDGED ON AN "ITEM-BY-ITEM BASIS."

5. THE SUBCOMMITTEE ALSO CONCLUDED THAT THE DANGER OF AN IMMEDIATE OUTBREAK OF WAR HAD BEEN EXAGGERATED, BUT WARNED

THAT WITHOUT MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE, WAR WOULD EVENTUALLY RESULT.

- 6. CONGRESSIONAL SOURCES ALSO DISCLOSED THAT ISRAEL WAS ASKING WASHINGTON FOR \$700 MILLION IN NEW ECONOMIC AID. HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT FORD INTENDED TO TRIM THE ISRAELI MILITARY AND ECONOMIC REQUEST FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR BEFORE MAKING A FORMAL PRESENTATION TO CONGRESS.
- 7. REPRESENTATIVE SAMUEL S. STRATTON, DEMOCRAT OF NEW YORK, SAID THAT REDUCTIONS WERE BEING CONSIDERED BECAUSE OF STRINGENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, AND NOT BECAUSE OF ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL.
- 8. HE CITED THAT PORTION OF THE REPORT THAT SPOKE OF PRESENT ISRAELI STRENGTH, THE EFFECT OF LARGE ARMS PURCHASES ON THE ISRAELI ECONOMY, AND THE "LIMITATIONS ON THE UNITED STATES AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED LARGE-SCALE BUDGET DEFICITS." (END TEXT). INGERSOLL

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